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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1953

GRAYS.
HIGGINS LTD., PRINTING CONTRACTORS
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URBAN DISTRICT OF THURROCK

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:
Dr. W. T. G. Boul, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., F.Z.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
L. Culliss (1, 2, 3)
Officer under Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.
Inspector under Shops Act.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:
H. A. Gosling (1, 2, 3)

Sanitary Inspectors:
R. A. Bull (1, 2, 3)
J. H. Ash (1, 2)
F. H. Mummery (1, 2)

1. Indicates Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Certificate, Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
3. Certificate, Smoke Inspection.

Chief Clerk—Sanitary Inspectors' Department:
R. Thompson, D.P.A., M.R.I., P.H.H. (Resigned October, 1953)
G. E. Bolton

Clerical Assistants:
Mrs. D. Sayers
Mrs. J. Whitney
Mrs. E. Brown

Mortuary Attendant:
F. J. Cosby

Pest Operative:
C. L. Wilkinson

THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
34 CRESTHILL AVENUE,
GRAYS, ESSEX.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1953, and my twenty-ninth Annual Report for the district as a whole.

I am very much indebted to the whole of the members of the staff of the Public Health Department and should wish to place on record, for the information of the Council, my appreciation of the work they have carried out during the year under review. I should also like to place on record my gratitude for the continued support of members of the Council, and Officials of other Departments.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. T. G. BOUL,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Land Area (in acres) appox.	41,000
Product of 1d. Rate	£2,315 3s. 4d.
Estimated Resident Population	91,140
No. of Separately Rated Dwelling Houses or Flats ...	25,675
No. of Shops with accommodation	480

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	819	825	1644
Illegitimate ...	33	37	70
			1714

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... 18.8

Deaths.	M.	F.	Total
	385	312	697

Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population ...	7.6
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age	29.7
Deaths from Suicide	6
Deaths from Road Traffic Accidents	8
Deaths from other accidents	17

Laboratory Facilities.

Routine examination of milk, water and ice-cream supplies were carried out by the Public Health Laboratories, Balmoral Avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47).

No action was taken during the year under the above Act.

DEVASTATION BY FLOODING.

On the night of 31st January, 1953, owing to the force of the wind and tide, the seabanks guarding the Urban District gave way in many places and as a result a considerable portion of the Wards of Tilbury, Purfleet and Corringham were inundated with water to varying depths.

Fortunately, especially in regard to Tilbury, the flooding was slow and loss of life did not occur.

During the next few days a very considerable number of the population were evacuated from their homes and at the peak period this number had reached at approximately 6,000.

The Local Authority opened twelve Rest Centres manned by their own staff and by volunteers from very many Organisations. The Public Health Department watched with great vigilance sanitary questions arising in the flooded areas and especially contamination of food and drinking water which might have resulted in widespread outbreaks of Infectious Disease.

The flood-water was sampled daily all over the district in regard to sewage contamination. Warnings were issued concerning contamination of food and drinking water and I am happy to report that no outbreak of disease followed.

The more personal matters of hygiene were dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health when acting as Area Medical Officer of the Essex County Council Health Services and each Rest Centre was staffed by a State Registered Nurse under the control of a General Medical Practitioner acting in a voluntary capacity.

Sick were evacuated, without loss of time, and great efforts were made to protect the hospitals from unnecessary demands.

It will be appreciated that large numbers of people were, at the time of the flooding, sick in their own homes and that their nursing could not be continued in the Rest Centres. The Hospital Wards, therefore, became crowded and two buildings were taken over in Grays and Aveley to accommodate infectious sick who did not need hospital treament and who, on the other hand, could not remain in the Rest Centres. In all 350 people were admitted to these Centres and also, to one of them, there was admitted large numbers of elderly frail inhabitants who again could not remain in the Rest Centres.

Very great assistance was given to the Public Health Department by the Royal Air Force, who lent a complete unit of Medical Officers, Nursing Orderlies, Transport, etc., various Army Units

stationed at Orsett Camp, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Nursing Division and the British Red Cross Society. The local Civil Ambulance Service drove 11,500 miles

The Rest Centres were opened for several weeks and the Authority may be satisfied that every effort was made by the Public Health Department, not only to protect the public from the spread of disease, but also to mitigate the hardship and discomfort by many from this most unfortunate period.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Closet Accommodation.

There are 619 cesspools, 669 pail closets in the area.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following report has been furnished to me by the Chief Sanitary Inspector in accordance with Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

	Visits paid
Dwelling Houses	4876
Housing Survey	40
Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) ...	29
Infectious Disease	267
Caravans	251
Factories (Mechanical)	65
Factories (Non-Mechanical)	8
Outworkers	27
Workplaces	2
Bakehouses	20
Dairies and Milkshops	45
Fish Shops	11
Butchers' Shops	49
Common Lodging Houses	3
Atmospheric Pollution (including Smoke Abatement)	71
Refuse Tips and Accumulations	148
Slaughterhouses	18
Knackers' Yards	11
Ice Cream Premises	45
Stables and Pig Styes	24
Samples—Milk	560
Samples—Ice Cream	221
Samples—Flood Water	44
Samples—Water	58

Samples—Rinsings	2
Samples—Swimming Baths	21
Rat Suppression	2362
Food Preparation Premises	411
Dustbins	41
Food Sampling	453
Food Inspection	255
Shops Acts—Inspections	157
Food Vehicles	8
Licensed Premises	11
Hackney Carriages	37
Heating Appliances (Fireguards Regulations)	4
Houseboats	1
Emergency Visits	90
Miscellaneous	1796

Dairies and Milk Shops.

There are within the area 11 registered dairies as defined by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and 74 licensed persons who retail milk in the sealed receptacles in which it is received at the premises. In addition to the foregoing, two outside firms carry on a vehicular trade within the district.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

Number of persons licensed to sell :—

(*a*)	Tuberculin Tested Milk	17
(*b*)	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	5
(*c*)	Accredited Milk	1
(*d*)	Pasteurised Milk	22
(*e*)	Sterilized	79

Pasteurising Plants.

There are two pasteurising plants in the district, with capacities of 1,500 gallons per hour in one case and one of 200 gallons per hour.

The larger plant is of the H.T.S.T. type, and the remaining one of the "Holder" type.

The largest plant works with the greatest efficiency, but exception cannot be taken to the efficiency of the lesser capacity plant.

Milk Samples.

Tuberculin Tested.

66 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were taken, of which 4 were shown to be unsatisfactory, giving a percentage figure of 93.9% satisfactory and 6.1% unsatisfactory.

The 4 unsatisfactory samples were taken from retailers in the district, but were actually produced by firms outside. Further samples, when taken, proved satisfactory.

Pasteurised.

372 samples of pasteurised milk were taken, 9 of which were unsatisfactory and 41 tests void. Disregarding the void samples, the percentage of unsatisfactory samples were 2.7%.

4 of the samples were shown to have failed the phosphatase test and of these samples, one was produced in the district and the remainder outside.

The remaining 5 samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test, of these, two were produced in the district and the remaining 3 outside.

Further samples were taken from all the producers and proved satisfactory.

Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised.

84 samples of T.T. pasteurised milk were taken, one sample proving to be unsatisfactory and 8 tests void. Disregarding the void samples this gives a percentage figure of 98.7% satisfactory and 1.3% unsatisfactory.

The unsatisfactory sample was shown to have failed the Methylene Blue Test and was from a producer outside the district. Further samples were taken and proved satisfactory.

Sterilised.

7 samples of sterilised milk were taken, all of which were shown to be satisfactory.

In respect of the foregoing unsatisfactory milk samples, it should be noted there was no sustained case of failure to produce a reasonable milk, all were somewhat sporadic in character.

Milk—Biological Tests. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.

40 samples were taken for submission to the biological test with a view to determining the presence or otherwise of tubercule bacilli.

One sample was shown to be positive, and in this connection the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was immediately informed.

In view of the fact that the milk from this farm was already being sent for pasteurisation before sale to the public, no further action by me was necessary.

WATER.

(*a*) 41 samples of water were taken during the year from the South Essex Waterworks Company's mains and submitted for bacteriological examination. Three of the samples were shown to be unsatisfactory. Of the three unsatisfactory samples, two were taken from mains which, it was learned afterwards, had been newly laid. After adequate flushing and chlorination, further samples were satisfactory. No explanation could be found for the unsatisfactory condition of the third sample, and a specimen sample, a week later, proved satisfactory. Two samples were also taken and submitted for chemical examination. The hardness in each case was as follows:

Sample No. 1—Total hardness 285 parts per million (180 temporary and 105 permanent).

Sample No. 2—Total hardness 240 parts per million (175 temporary and 65 permanent).

(*b*) STATISTICS—WATER.

1. During the year, the water supplies of the area have been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

2. A detailed report on the bacteriological examination of water supplies will be found under the heading "Water—Samples."

3. There is no domestic water supply in the area liable to plumbo-solvent action.

4. (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses supplied from public water mains direct to the houses 26,077

   Number of population so served 90,857

   (*b*) Number of houses supplied from public water mains by means of standpipes 30

   Estimated population so served 110

   (*c*) Number of houses served by wells or stored rainwater 48

   Estimated population so served 173

Meat Inspection.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned at Slaughterhouses.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	64
Number inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	64
All diseases, except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis Only. Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberlosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.56

Unsound Meat Surrendered.

12lbs. of pork were surrendered as the result of visits to slaughterhouses for the inspection of cottagers' pigs, etc.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 7 annually licensed slaughterhouses. No regular slaughtering now takes place, the licensed slaughterhouses being used in connection with the slaughter of cottagers' pigs and casualties.

Knacker's Yards.

There is only one knacker's yard in the Council's area, and this is periodically visited with a view to ascertaining any contravention of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) (No. 2) Order, 1940, concerning the necessity for staining.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

A register of all licensed slaughtermen, pursuant to Section 3 (1) of the above-mentioned Act, is kept, and the number so licensed is 21.

Miscellaneous Other Foods Surrendered.

Meat	3725 lbs.	Fruit juice	338 bottles
Tinned meat	683 tins	Cod Liver Oil	380 bottles
Fruit	8808 tins	Cornflour	7 pkts.
Soup	376 tins	Oatmeal	14 lbs.
Vegetables	2940 tins	Tea	72½ lbs.
Fish	394 tins	Mustard	15 tins
Milk	974 tins	Sauce	94 bottles
Milk (dried)	424 tins	Pickles	81 jars
Cream	48 tins	Patent medicines	9 pkts.
Ham	617 lbs.	Patent medicines	105 bottles
Preserves	163 tins	Patent medicines	2 tins
Cooking fat	1646 lbs.	Cereals	31 tins
Margarine	2368 lbs.	Cereals	220 lbs.
Pork offal	92½ lbs.	Malt Extract	17 bottles
Butter	825 lbs.	Flour	425 lbs.
Cheese	512 lbs.	Cut peel	28 lbs.
Cheese	6 boxes (62 pkts.)	Macaroni	80 lbs.
Sugar	6167 lbs.	Syrup	1 tin
Bacon	877 lbs.	Wet fish	103 lbs.
Sweets	363 lbs.	Peanuts	12 jars
Sweets	42 pkts. (3 boxes)	Flavouring	50 bottles
Sausages	251 lbs.	Custard powder	42 lbs.
Rabbits	490 lbs.	Custard powder	9 tins
Eggs	263 (1/3 doz.)	Flour confectionery	534 pkts.
Pies	336 lbs. (41½ doz.)	Oxo	2 pkts.
Sausage casings	311 bundles	Farex	4 pkts.
Stuffing	72 pkts.	Coconut ice	260 lbs.
Pastes	143 jars	Dates	10 pkts.
Gravy	20 pkts.	Fowl	16 lbs.
Salt	9 pkts.	Shellfish	8 galls.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Where directed by the circular, those surrendered or condemned foods required to be returned bv trade channels were so dealt with. Other foods were used for pig food or buried on the Council's refuse disposal site as the condition warranted.

Ice-Cream Samples.

209 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:—

Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade	Number of Samples
Grade I	99
Grade II	62
Grade III	43
Grade IV	5

The standard of ice-cream sold within the Area throughout the year is set out below :—

Producer	Total No. of Samples therefrom	Min. of Health's Provisional Grades I	II	III	IV	Quality as per Ministerial Standard
A.	43	17	13	12	1	Unsatisfactory
B.	29	16	10	3	—	Satisfactory
C.	31	20	7	4	—	Satisfactory
D.	14	6	4	3	1	Unsatisfactory
E.	32	11	15	6	—	Satisfactory
F.	12	5	4	3	—	Unsatisfactory
G.	14	9	4	1	—	Satisfactory
H.	6	3	2	1	—	Satisfactory
I.	5	4	—	1	—	Satisfactory
J.	4	3	1	—	—	Satisfactory
K.	6	4	1	1	—	Satisfactory
L.	13	1	1	8	3	Unsatisfactory
TOTALS	209	99	62	43	5	

Producers E. H. and I. are situated within the Urban District. The remaining Producers whilst producing outside the district, retail their supplies within.

In sampling for ice-cream, an endeavour has been made to obtain a sufficient number of samples so as to arrive at a reasonable conclusion as to their general grade. This, as will be seen, is sometimes impossible owing to the fact that production and subsequent sale is sporadic and infrequent.

Of the total of 209 samples taken, 43 were from Thurrock producers, and fell within the following categories :—

Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade	Number of Samples
Grade I	18
Grade II	17
Grade III	8
Percentage of Grade I samples... ...	41.8%
,, ,, Grades I and II samples ...	81.4%
,, ,, Grade III samples ...	18.6%
,, ,, ,, IV ,, ...	Nil

FOOD HANDLING BYE-LAWS.

In the administration of the Council's bye-laws on food handling, periodic visits are made to all food preparation premises, including restaurants, hotels, works and school canteens, and constructive suggestions made. In many instances more definite instructions were addressed to the various offenders.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

My records show there are 184 premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream and 96 premises registered for the manufacture or sale of sausages, etc.

Food Premises.

There are, in the Urban District, the following premises used for the sale of food as indicated:

Hotels and Licensed Premises	... ...	53
Cafes and refreshment houses	... ...	44
Shops: Fruit and vegetables	... ...	45
Grocery and provisions	... ...	136
Sugar confectionery	... ...	68
Bakers and flour confectionery	...	29
Butchers shops	... ...	54
Fried fish shop / Wet and dry fish shop	...	20

Shops Acts, 1950.

In the administration of this Act it has become noticeable that the once prevalent offence of serving after hours has declined to a minimum as has also the incidence of the working of young persons in excess of the statutory hours. There is plenty of evidence that occupiers of shops are not as mindful of their obligations as could be expected in the matter of the provision and maintenance of statutory forms controlling the hours and conditions associated with the employment of young persons. 157 inspections were made of the shops in the area with a view to ascertaining the circumstances associated with the conditions outlined above.

Verminous Premises.

Number of houses found to be infested ... 7

The above figure does not include houses on the Council's estates which are supervised by the Council's Housing Department.

(*a*) The methods employed for freeing infested houses from vermin are as follows:—

The spraying of all rooms and effects with a vermicide containing D.D.T.

(*b*) The following methods are employed for ensuring the belongings of prospective tenants of Council houses are free from vermin :—

The belongings of prospective Council house tenants are inspected by the members of the Council's Housing Department. If vermin are found to be present, the tenant is not accepted until conditions have been remedied. The tenant is expected to carry out the work of disinfestation, or, alternatively, this is carried out by the Local Authority at a charge of 7/6 per room disinfested.

(*c*) The disinfestation of private houses is carried out by the owners or occupiers under the supervision of the Local Authority. Facilities are offered by the Public Health Department whereby such disinfestation is carried out by them, and a charge is made for this service on the basis indicated above.

Section D.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1)	(*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1579
	(*b*) Number of inspections and re-inspections made for that purpose	4876
(2)	(*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and reported under Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925)...	19
	(*b*) Number of inspections and re-inspections made for that purpose	40
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit	4
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	655

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	469

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) *Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served under the Council's Housing Byelaws	30
(4) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit as a result thereof (including those outstanding from 1952)...	43

(B) *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	330
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (including those outstanding from 1952):—	
(*a*) By Owners	307
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

(C) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(3) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted ...	1
(4) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings to render fit were accepted	1
(5) Number of houses so rendered fit	1

(D) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil

List of Works Executed.

Rooms:	
Dampness remedied	103
Stripped, cleansed and redecorated	11
Plaster repaired	152
Floors repaired	137
Windows repaired, renewed or extended ...	103
Stoves repaired or renewed	92
Doors, locks, &c.	48
Vermin disinfested	2
Food stores ventilated and repaired	2
Staircases:	
Stripped and redecorated	11
Handrails fixed	20
Repairs	18
Lighting	—
Sanitary Fitments:	
New sinks, &c.	20
Coppers provided or repaired	6
W.C.'s and pail closets repaired	115
New pedestals provided	17
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	52
Soil or vent pipes repaired or renewed	5
Pail closets to W.C.'s	5
Drains:	
Unstopped or repaired	61
New drains	3
Gullies repaired or renewed	15
Inspection Chambers repaired or inserted	9
Water Supplies and Fittings:	
Repaired or renewed	27
New services	3
External Works:	
Roofs repaired or renewed	176
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed ...	138
Walls repaired or renewed	28
Yards paved or repaired	7
Dustbins provided	29
Miscellaneous	8
Accumulations removed	7

Clearance Area.

Section 25. Housing Act, 1936.

Thirty-five houses in the St. Chad's area of the Tilbury Ward were presented to the Council as a proposed Clearance Area. The procedure of the Housing Act was put into operation and a Public Enquiry is pending.

Tilbury Re-development Housing.

The re-development of the area lying between Calcutta Road, and Sydney Road, Tilbury, forming the northern portion of the area covered by the Urban District of Thurrock Declaratory Order, 1949, was proceeded with and the demolition of some 63 properties and the erection of 139 living units and shops commenced.

Overcrowding.

During the year 29 investigations were made from which it was ascertained that 10 cases of overcrowding occurred. These were referred to the Housing Department for Council Houses when available. Additional cases of overcrowding were discovered by the Housing Department in connection with investigations carried out under the Council's " Points " scheme. It should be noted that the Housing Committee's standard of overcrowding is higher than the statutory one. Some statutory overcrowding cases are abated but this action is necessarily limited by the " Points " scheme.

Complaints Received.

During the year, 1097 complaints were received from residents within the Urban District. Every complaint was investigated with the minimum delay, and action taken thereon, where this was deemed to be necessary.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	22	8	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	281	65	6	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	303	73	6	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)... ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—					
(*a*) Insufficient ...	2	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	3	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	7	5	—	3	—

FACTORIES.

The discrepancy of two is accounted for as follows:

(*a*) A factory was reported to the Council for lack of accommodation and instructions given for legal proceedings. However, a change of factory site took place and rendered legal proceedings unnecessary.

(*b*) The second instance was in connection with repairs of existing conveniences, the firm submitted plans for reconstruction.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year 11 observations were made in respect of the discharge of black smoke into the atmosphere. In each case informal representations were made to the offending firm and I am pleased to say that improvements were effected although there are still sporadic emissions of black smoke. One firm, a regular offender, replaced the firing system of a Lancashire boiler with an automatically fed chain grate, and I am very pleased to report that no smoke nuisance whatsoever now arises.

In July of this year, the Council arranged for one of its members and the Chief Sanitary Inspector to attend a bi-monthly conference of the Thameside Advisory Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution, and in response to the deliberations of this body, the Council undertook to set up two atmospheric pollution guages within their area, together with one lead peroxide cylinder, the former two with a view to determining the amount of suspended matter in the atmosphere and the latter one, the amount of sulphur, measured as sulphur trioxide. The siting of the guages are (1) Cole and Lecquire's jetty, some three hundred yards west of Grays beach; (2) the Council's allotments adjoining Ward Avenue, whilst the peroxide cylinder is sited at the Council's depot in Fox Manorway, West Thurrock.

I append below a list of the monthly readings of the guages referred to:

Month	Cole & Lecquire's Jetty	Ward Avenue	Sulphur Peroxide
	Tons per square mile		Mg. per 100 sq. Cm.
August	50.25	59.76	1.0
September	44.64	46.86	—
October	43.94	38.08	0.94
November	42.30	44.60	1.52
December	58.75	53.47	1.66

It should be appreciated that so far as the guages are concerned the result is not limited to cement dust but includes grit and gritty particles from domestic and any other source.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1953.

Under this Act certain Regulations were made; the Regulations came into operation on the 1st October, 1953, and their purport is that any domestic heating apparatus sold after that date shall be adequately protected and comply with the prescribed test ensuring that protection.

Four firms in the Council's area making or retailing domestic heating apparatus were visited and with one or two exceptions which were dealt with informally, it was found that the requirements of these Regulations were, in fact, met.

Outwork.

A register of outworkers resident in the district is kept, and the number so registered is 21.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Pest Operative deals with all complaints of infestations as soon as they are received. In connection with disinfestations, private dwelling-houses are treated free of cost, whilst trade premises are charged on a basis of total cost plus establishment charges. In addition, the Pest Operative carries out monthly treatments at the Council's sewage works and refuse tips. The treatment of sewers is undertaken by the Surveyor's Department.

The following are statistics in relation to the work of the Pest Operative:—

Visits to Private Dwelling-houses	1982
Visits to Trade Premises	159
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	110

FOOD AND DRUGS REPORT.

The following samples of food and drugs were taken during the year :—

Article	Number of Formal Samples	Number of Informal Samples	Genuine	Non-Genuine
New milk	45	1	45	1
Tinned milk	2	1	3	—
Pork sausages	5	—	5	—
Beef sausages	5	—	5	—
Luncheon meat	3	—	3	—
Breakfast sausage	1	—	1	—
Meat pudding	1	—	1	—
Sausage rolls	1	—	1	—
Corned beef	1	—	—	1
Vinegar	1	—	1	—
Spices	10	—	10	—
Tea	3	—	3	—
Dried fruit	2	—	2	—
Cut peel	2	—	2	—
Cake	2	2	4	—
Flour confectionery	15	2	17	—
Preserves	11	3	14	—
Gelatine	1	—	1	—
Patent medicines	15	6	20	1
Ointments	5	1	6	—
Sweets	6	3	9	—
Tinned soup	4	1	5	—
Cocoa	1	—	—	1
Fats	6	—	5	1
Tinned stew	1	—	1	—
Jellies	2	1	3	—
Banana curd	1	—	—	1
Coconut ice	1	—	1	—
Tinned vegetables	2	1	3	—

Article	Number of Formal Samples	Number of Informal Samples	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Coffee	2	—	2	—
Soft drinks	5	3	7	1
Ground almonds	1	—	1	—
Meat pies	3	—	3	—
Faggots	1	—	1	—
Fruit juice	1	—	1	—
Mint vinegar	1	—	1	—
Potato crisps	1	—	1	—
Sauces	1	1	2	—
Cereals	2	1	3	—
Pastes	3	—	3	—
Sugar	2	—	2	—
Salt	1	—	—	1
Whipping Compound	—	1	1	—
Spaghetti	1	—	1	—
Dressed crab	1	—	1	—
Olive Oil	1	—	1	—
Dried vegetables	1	—	1	—
Ice-cream	4	—	4	—
Tinned cream	1	3	3	1
Pork chipolatas	1	—	1	—
Tinned fruit	1	2	3	—
Lemon essence	1	—	—	1
Synthetic cream	—	1	1	—
	191	34	215	10

Non-Genuine Samples.

(*a*) With regard to the non-genuine sample of milk, this sample was taken from a local farm and proceedings were taken.

(*b*) The sample of cocoa which was found to be non-genuine proved to be very old stock. There was only one pound left after the sample had been taken and this was withdrawn from sale. The retailer was cautioned.

(*c*) With regard to the non-genuine sample of corned beef, this was ultimately discovered to actually be corned beef loaf which had been erroneously sold as corned beef. A letter of caution was sent to the retailer.

(*d*) The non-genuine sample of fat was of beef dripping, which proved to be rancid. The manufacturer was contacted and advised as to the preparation of the product. He undertook to take more care with future preparations.

(*e*) The non-genuine samples of banana-curd, raspberry wine, salt and patent medicine, were due to errors in the labelling of these commodities—after correspondence with the manufacturers, the labels were amended.

(*f*) The sample of tinned cream was stated by the Analyst to be improperly labelled. The manufacturers were contacted and stated that, in their opinion, the label met the requirements of the Regulations. After correspondence with the Ministry of Food, it was agreed that in this particular instance no action could be taken.

(*g*) With regard to the non-genuine sample of lemon essence, the Analyst reported that it was wrongly named and indicated the presence of lemon grass oil. Considerable correspondence ensued and the time limit provided by the Food and Drugs Act was exceeded, a further sample taken was satisfactory.

Legal Proceedings.

Section 9. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

One case was taken under the above section regarding meat unfit for human consumption which was being offered for sale. The defendant was fined £20.

Section 9.

Food and Drugs—Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream Act, 1950.

One case was taken under the above section relating to milk to which water had been added. For the defence it was pleaded that the water gained access to the milk via a leaking cooler. The defendants were fined a total of £6.

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Old Metal Dealers Order No. 7, 1952. Section 86.

Two cases were taken and under above Act and Order in relation to premises which were being used by Old Metal Dealers but which were unregistered. In one case there was a fine of £3 and a daily penalty of £1 if premises so used remained unregistered. In the second case the person concerned was fined a total of £2.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 11.

A demolition order made by the Council was the subject of an appeal and the demolition order was quashed on the understanding that the works required by the Council were carried out within six months. The works were not so completed and an application was made to the Court by the appellant for a further extension of six months. The decision of the Court was that they held no jurisdiction in the matter but since the Council obviously required an amendment of the order a further two months was granted. The works were completed.

Essex County Council Act, 1933.

An appeal was made against the Council's refusal to consent to the use of a site in Tilbury for a movable dwelling. The applicant failed and an order to discontinue the use of the caravan for the purpose was made.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASES	Notified	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	153	8	—
Dysentery ...	5	3	—
Pneumonia ...	46	20	2
Infective Hepatitis ...	13	4	—
Chicken Pox ...	9	2	—
Measles ...	1507	33	—
Whooping Cough ...	425	12	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	27	27	—
Food Poisoning ...	5	1	—
Mumps ...	3	—	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum	1	1	—
German Measles ...	9	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	3	3	—
Tubercular Meningitis ...	1	1	—
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	1
Meningitis ...	3	2	—

AGE GROUPS, 1953

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. up.	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	5	6	10	17	96	15	...	3	...	...	...	153
Infective Hepatitis ...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	2	6	...	...	...	13
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	18	1	...	...	21
Pneumonia	1	1	3	2	1	6	1	1	8	7	10	5	46
Dysentery	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Whooping Cough ...	41	56	61	52	68	144	1	1	1	...	...	...	425
Measles	57	142	209	219	224	625	13	10	6	1	1	...	1507
Chicken Pox	...	1	1	...	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Food Poisoning	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	5
Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	3
Mumps	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	3
German Measles	...	...	...	1	1	1	5	1	...	...	...	...	9
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Tubercular Meningitis ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was taken under the above headings.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
1- 5 years	4	1	2	1	...	...	...	...
5-15 ,,	4	5	5	3	...	...	...	...
15-25 ,,	24	21	4	1	...	...	...	...
25-35 ,,	33	45	...	2	...	2	...	...
35-45 ,,	21	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
45-55 ,,	12	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
55-65 ,,	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 ,, upwards	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	103	83	11	8	1	2	...	...